MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 3 and 4, 1923.

The seventh meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1923 was held in its office at 1729 New York Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C., Thursday, May 3, and Friday, May 4, 1923.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Greenleaf,
Mr. Fraser,
Mr. Ayres,
Mr. Bacon,
Mr. Mowbray,
Mr. Medary,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The members were much pleased to have with them again Mr. James L. Greenleaf, Landscape Architect of the Commission, who had been absent for several months in California, and had recovered from a severe illness.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held April 5, 1923, were approved.

2. FIRST-AID MEDAL: The United States Bureau of Mines having reported that the design for the reverse of the First-Aid medal, showing canary birds, as passed upon by the Commission on April 5, was considered by the Bureau of Mines as being not sufficiently suggestive of first-aid work, Mr. Nebel, sculptor, of Pittsburgh, was requested to make a new design.

Mr. Nebel submitted a new design showing an oxygen inhalator and stretcher, with letter dated April 27th, as follows:

> "I showed the models, of which the enclosed photographs were made, to Messrs. Parker, Bourquin and Denny of the Bureau of Mines here and I am glad to inform you that they approved designs A or B as sketches for the reverse side of the First-Aid Plaque. They have also approved the Mine Rescue Plaque as per photograph enclosed. I would appreciate it very much

if I could be advised as to what the exact wording should be on reverse side of First-Aid Plaque. Mr. Parker thought that there may be some objection to having the letters U. S. on design B, but was very much pleased with the motive in the center illustrating the oxygen inhalator and stretcher. I will of course in the meantime develop the approved obverse side of First-Aid, and await further advice."

The Commission approved design A, but suggested that the design of the oxygen inhalator and stretcher be made more conventional and also more in perspective. As designed at present it appeared too mechanical, and realistic. (Exhibit A). (Also A-1)

3. NEW "SHOW-GREENHOUSE", or CONSERVATORY, BOTANIC GARDEN: Mr. George W. Hess, Director of the United States Botanic Garden, submitted to the Commission two designs for a show green-house to be erected on a site at the head of the James Creek Canal area, shown in a blueprint submitted (No.84350, D. C. Surveyor). The design from the American Greenhouse Manufacturing Co. called for a greenhouse the height of 35', 3", and the design from Lord and Burnham Co. called for a greenhouse the height of 28 feet. The Commission, after considering both designs, decided that the greenhouse designed by the American Greenhouse Manufacturing Co. would best serve the interests of the Botanic Garden, and approved that design. A report was submitted to Mr. Hess, which included recommendations as to the location proposed, the new "show greenhouse" to be south of B Street south, facing B Street. (Exhibit B).

The Commission recommended further that the existing glass houses on the square immediately south of Maryland Avenue be transferred south of the new show greenhouse, thereby giving the new "show greenhouse" a good approach.

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, YOSEMITE VILLAGE: Director Stephen T. Mather accompanied by Assistant Director Arno B. Cammerer, of the National Park Service, laid before the Commission the plan of the Yosemite Valley floor, on which the

location of the Yosemite Village, including a new administration and new post office building, was the most important factor. Mr. Greenleaf had been in conference with these two gentlemen at their office in the Interior Department Building the preceding Thursday afternoon, reviewing various studies of the village floor arrangement prepared by Charles P. Punchard, Edwin J. Symmes, Philip Gutleben, and Mark Daniels in the past, including one by Daniel R. Hull, the present landscape engineer. At that time it was considered that the Hull plan had the most merit and should be chosen.

At the Commission meeting Director Mather brought up the plan for formal approval, but suggested that it might be made more acceptable, in order to keep the view from the new village site towards the Yosemite Falls free from structures, by taking the administration building away from that site and relocating it at the place shown on the Punchard plan on the other side of the valley, which had the approval of the superintendent of the park. It was decided that of the two locations the one on the other side of the valley would be the least objectionable, and therefore the plan was approved with this understanding.

The Director also submitted plans and elevations for the new post office and new administration buildings prepared by Mr. Gilbert Stanley Underwood, architect of Los Angeles. The members of the Commission were not satisfied with either of the elevations, and disapproved the plan for the administration building entirely. They suggested to Mr. Mather that an architect be employed who was experienced in this sort of work, and gave him the names of Architects Myron Hunt, and Robert D. Farquhar, of Los Angeles; Wm. B. Faville and Walter D. Bliss, of San Francisco; Mr. Johnson of Denver, Mr. George H. Keehan, and several others on the Pacific Coast, who

they considered would be satisfactory.

In view of the expressed urgency for the construction of a new post office, the Commission felt that the design prepared by Mr. Underwood, if simplified according to their pencil suggestions, could be whipped into acceptable shape, and with this understanding the plans and elevations were returned to Director Mather without the disapproval of the Commission noted.

In the course of the submission Mr. Mather stated that Yosemite National Park covers 1,125 square miles; the valley of world-famed beauty, is about 6½ miles in length, which is the part visited by the great majority of the tourists. The park, he said, must provide for a minimum of 100,000 visitors each year, and the space available for accommodations being limited, the character and disposition of the buildings, so as to disturb the scenery as little as possible, is a problem. Mr. Mather explained, with the use of a map, important features in the park, and pointed out roadways, or passes, leading to and from the valley.

Mr. Greenleaf said during his recent visit in California, during which he visited several of the National Parks, he observed the tendency on the part of some to commercialize the parks, who would spoil the natural scenery, and that every such encroachment should be stopped. The Commission expressed their interest in the work of the National Park Service to develop the parks so as adequately to accommodate the increasing number of visitors, and in the effort made to maintain the parks in their natural beauty.

5. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: Colonel C. O. Sherrill, Executive and Disbursing Officer of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, appeared with Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall, of the Office of McKim, Mead and White, Architects, of New York City, who have been appointed architects of the Arlington Memorial Bridge, with preliminary drawings of the proposed treatment of the roadways

to the west of the Lincoln Memorial, as an approach to the bridge, and a preliminary design of the bridge.

Colonel Sherrill reported that upon actual measurements, it was found that the space from the circle west of the Lincoln Memorial to the river is less than at first expected, measuring instead of 500 feet only 360 feet, and that therefore there is less distance available for roadways. Mr. Kendall explained the designs and stated that in designing the roadways the "underpass" road had been omitted and the approach to the bridge had been designed to appear as a great open plaza with suitable provision for the passage of traffic that would pass by the bridge in going to East Potomac Park. Mr. Kendall stated also that the design was made to show the straight sea wall indicated in the Plan of 1901. The design showed ample provision for the handling of motor traffic coming from the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway and from Twenty-third and neighboring streets, approaching the Lincoln Memorial. The Commission recommended the widening of B Street to correspond to the width of B Street east of 17th. The Commission especially emphasized the importance of having the memorial bridge sufficiently wide. Mr. Kendall said the bridge was designed as an 80 foot bridge with 12 foot sidewalks. The Commission, however, thought this not wide enough and that it would be better to make it 100 feet wide, low, and have the appearance of a park bridge. Mr. Bacon suggested that Mr. Kendall get the width of new bridges in Boston. Mr. Medary said he would inquire as to the width of new bridges in Philadelphia for Mr. Kendall. Attention was called to the fact that the new Key Bridge in Washington is 75 feet wide, but that the 8 foot sidewalks on each side of the bridge, is reported to be not wide enough.

Mr. Kendall called attention to the treatment of the arches. His idea,

he said, is to have the pylons symmetrically placed. Considerable discussion developed as to the proposed treatment of the "rond point" on Columbia Island. The exact character of this could not be determined without further study, in view of landscape problems involved in the treatment of the island and the land on both sides of the river for park purposes. Mr. Moore said the Plan of 1901 contemplated a rond point of adequate proportions for a memorial to General Robert E. Lee. The plan for a Memorial Bridge, Mr. Moore said, has been talked of from the time of Andrew Jackson, and Daniel Webster spoke of it at the time of the controversy concerning the Missouri Compromise. The Report of the Park Commission of 1901 states:

> "On the occasion of laying the corner stone for the extension of the Capitol, on the Fourth of July, 1851, Daniel Webster, in the course of an impassioned plea for preservation of the Union, which in his prophetic vision seemed even then on the verge of dissolution, exclaimed:
>
> > Before us is the broad and beautiful river, separating two of the original thirteen States, which a late President, a man of determined purpose and inflexible will, but patriotic heart, desired to span with arches of ever-enduring granite, symbolical of the firmly established union of the North and the South. That President was General Jackson.
>
> The struggle which the orator and the statesman were powerless to avert brought about the perpetuation of the Union; and today the survivors of that war, both those of the North and those of the South, using the words of President McKinley, urge the building of the Memorial Bridge as a monument to American valor."

Another important feature pointed out was the treatment of the approach to Arlington and the diverging roadways, one to extend northward, to connect with the Lee Highway, and the other southward to Mount Vernon.

The Commission were much gratified with the progress made and gave their general approval in principle to the scheme shown in the designs submitted. Mr. Kendall stated that he would proceed with the designs and submit them to the Commission from time to time in the progress of the work.

6. PERMANENT AMERICAN CEMETERIES IN EUROPE: Colonel H. R. Casey, Chief

of the Engineering Division, Office of the Quartermaster General, submitted construction plans for the permanent American Cemetery at Brookwood, England, at the "Somme", or Bony, and at Thiaucourt, in France.

The Commission made a considerable number of changes in the designs. The Commission were not at all pleased with the work done. They considered the architecture of an inferior grade and decided to place their protest on record against the character of the work, the haste, and manner of presentation. Colonel Casey stated that the great haste at the present time becomes necessary because of the necessity to place the work in Europe for these cemeteries under contract before the end of the fiscal year.

The Commission returned the designs with a report to the Quartermaster General. (Exhibit C).

7. ARMSTRONG MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL: Mr. A. L. Harris, Municipal Architect, submitted a design for a proposed addition to the Armstrong Manual Training School. The Commission approved the design with suggestions indicated on the design, to the effect that the entrance and the entablature be simplified.

8. NEW LAMP POST FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Mr. Harris reported that the Acting Engineer Commissioner, Major Besson, refused to permit him to make a revised full-size model of the new lamp post, as had been recommended at the April meeting of the Commission, not even a small scale model, and that he therefore asked the designer, Miss Kathryn Harris, to submit revised drawings, setting forth the suggestions made by the Commission with reference to the former design. Mr. Ayres, Mr. Ledary and Mr. Fraser made further changes in the design, particularly in the treatment of the base, with a view to simplification.

9. PROPOSED TREATMENT OF PLAZA AT FIFTEENTH & H STREETS, N.E.: Captain John E.

Wood, Assistant Engineer Commissioner , submitted a suggested design for the treatment of the plaza at Fifteenth and H Streets, N.E. Captain Wood stated he was submitting the design at the present time for a tentative statement as to the probable cost of condemming the property in the immediate vicinity and as to the removal of the comfort station, which at present is in the middle of the street.

The Commission stated that the comfort station should be removed from the street and the plaza developed into a "circle" of converging roadways, with a balanced treatment. Mr. Moore said the sum of $200,000 would not be an excessive figure to make these changes.

10. GALLINGER HOSPITAL: Mr. Harris and Captain Wood submitted drawings for the treatment of the Gallinger Hospital grounds and stated they desired advice particularly with reference to the proposed location of new buildings. Captain Wood said that the plans for the hospital were made about 25 years ago for a site at 14th and Upshur Streets, but objection was raised to the location of the hospital there, and that the new location of the hospital is along Massachusetts Avenue, N. E., adjoining the Anacostia Park area. Captain Wood said further that several buildings have already been completed to the value of $4,000,000, but that before proceeding further they desired advice from the Commission of Fine Arts with reference to the location of proposed new buildings. The sum of $25,000, he said, has been allowed for plans. Captain Wood pointed out that the question of street level, and whether Massachusetts Avenue would be extended across the Anacostia River, were matters on which they desired advice.

Mr. Ayres and Mr. Medary stated that before proceeding any further in the building plans, the project should be brought to the attention of competent hospital authorities to advise as to the best up-to-date arrangement of the

buildings, having in view serviceability and the care of patients, and recommended Dr. S. S. Goldwater, Director of the Mount Sinai Hospital, in New York City, who is considered by architects the most eminent authority on hospital building construction and administration. Mr. Medary said judging from the fact that the original plans for this hospital were made a number of years ago and the improvements made in hospital construction in recent years, the arrangement of the buildings as indicated in the designs submitted is not correct.

As to the question of street level and the extension across the Anacostia River, Mr. Moore stated that the official Highway Plan provides for the extension of Massachusetts Avenue across the Anacostia to the District Line and that some day there will be a Massachusetts Avenue Bridge across the Anacostia. Captain Wood said they did not know at the District Office whether Massachusetts Avenue is going to the District Line nor whether a high level or a low level bridge would be built. The Highway Plan, he said is, based on a low level bridge, but this they understood is not satisfactory to the Commission of Fine Arts.

The secretary thereupon stated that this matter of the Gallinger Hospital had come before the Commission of Fine Arts several years ago and that on December 6, 1918, the Commission addressed the following letter to the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, on the subject:

> "Referring to your communication of November sixteenth last regarding the proposed layout for the Municipal Hospital on Reservation 13,-
>
> "The Act of Congress requires that the hospital buildings be arranged so as to provide for the extension of Massachusetts Avenue. The grade of that Avenue as extended must be governed by the requirements of the War Department for a clear headroom of 50 feet over the Anacostia. It is proposed to raise the Pennsylvania railroad tracks to grade 24 and to carry park roads below both the railroad and Massachusetts Avenue.
>
> These arrangements will bring the hospital land below the

Massachusetts Avenue grade and will thus prevent facing the hospital on that avenue. The natural arrangement for the hospital buildings, therefore, would be to locate the administration building facing 19th street. The side of the grounds along Massachusetts Avenue could be planted with trees, screening the hospital buildings.

The problem of handling the Anacostia Park frontage is not a difficult one for the architect, provided he recognizes the problem. Certainly the view of the Columbia Hospital from Pennsylvania Avenue should be a sufficient warning.

The Commission disapproves the plan submitted, and recommends that a restudy of the problem be made with the view of securing a plan embodying the ideas outlined above."

Mr. Harris and Captain Wood said they would bring the plans to the attention of Dr. Goldwater, as recommended by the Commission. Later in the day a trip of inspection was made to the site and Mr. Moore pointed out that the height of the Massachusetts Avenue bridge would be governed by the new Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge, which is to be a high level bridge.

11. GRANT MEMORIAL PANELS: Under date of April 23, 1923, Colonel Sherrill submitted a photograph of the clay model of the panel for the north side of the center pedestal of the Grant Memorial, for advice as to its artistic excellence.

The Commission stated with reference to the panels that they could but reiterate their statements made heretofore that the center pedestal of the Grant Memorial, considered as a unit of composition, is such as should require that the work be done in stone, and from the fact that the modeling of the panel is of a different type from that done by the sculptor, Mr. Shrady, the work on these panels should be of different material. Mr. Fraser said he inspected the work, and that the work should be done in stone for satisfactory results. (Exhibit D).

12. DOMINICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL: Mr. Fraser reported that Mr. Weinman is proceeding with the work on the new Dominican Campaign Medal, showing the motif suggested in the design submitted by the Navy Department.

13. TANK CORPS MONUMENT: Under date of April 10, 1923, the Office of the Quartermaster General, War Department, submitted the following letter, with designs for a Tank Corps Monument at Arlington:

> "Enclosed herewith is a design of a monument and bronze tablet which the officers of the Tank Corps desire to erect in Arlington National Cemetery to the memory of their comrades who lost their lives in the World War, together with the proposed site of the memorial indicated with red ink on accompanying map, which the Quartermaster General desires sent to you for remark.
>
> "The Secretary of War has authorized the erection of this memorial, the design and site of same to be subject to the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts."

The monument is to be pyramidal in shape, to correspond to the Tank Corps Insignia, of gray granite, and to conform to the regulations pertaining to the erection of monuments in Arlington. The Commission disapproved placing the bronze tablet on the stone, as proposed, and advised cutting the inscription in the stone. Lieut. Colonel Oliver S. Eskridge, of Camp Meade, Maryland, appeared before the Commission in the interest of the memorial, and stated that the Tank Corps is now raising the necessary funds for the monument, but additional effort would be made to meet the cost of erecting the monument according to a design as approved by the Commission.

14. FREER GALLERY OF ART: The Commission visited the Freer Gallery of Art (officially opened May 2, 1923), all additions to the collections to which Gallery must be approved by the Commission. The Commission expressed high appreciation of the arrangement and presentation of the collections as made by the Curator, Mr. John Lodge. The members believe that this Gallery makes a distinct advance in the art of this country, especially in the matter of establishing and maintaining standards.

15. DESIGN FOR A TOWER, TROY, NEW YORK: Mr. Moore reported that Mr. John Knickerbacker, of Troy, New York, submitted designs for a tower proposed for erection near the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy,

concerning which the advice of the Commission was desired. The design resembled a Venetian tower. The Commission recommended elimination of ornaments and simplification of the design generally.

16. SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CROSS: Mr. Greenleaf reported that on April 27th he visited Arlington in company with representatives of the American Women's Legion for the purpose of determining upon a detailed landscape plan for the treatment of the Soldiers Memorial Cross. Mr. Greenleaf stated that the cross is to be erected at the site in the World War Section heretofore agreed upon and that he had prepared a report in the form of a letter to the Quartermaster General; which met with the approval of the Commission (Exhibit E).

17. DARLINGTON MEMORIAL: Under date of April 27, 1923, Colonel Sherrill submitted a location plan for the Darlington Memorial to be erected in Judiciary Park. The location suggested in the design was at the site heretofore recommended by the Commission, west of the Court House building, and the design was approved.

Colonel Sherrill submitted for reconsideration by the Commission the question of propriety of erecting the statue of the maiden and a fawn at the proposed site. The Commission felt that there should be no objection to the accepted design of the memorial, (Exhibit F).

18. ANACOSTIA PARK PLAN, SECTION "D". Under date of March 9, 1923, Colonel Sherrill submitted a preliminary plan for the development of Section "D", Anacostia Park, into a recreation park, which received especial attention by the Commission. The secretary reported that Section "D", located between the Anacostia Bridge and the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge, covers 63 acres, and that for its improvement and maintenance as a recreation park Congress

appropriated $50,000 in the District of Columbia Appropriation Act for the fiscal year 1924. For further reclamation work on the Anacostia River and Flats, below Benning Bridge, Congress appropriated $150,000 for the fiscal year 1924.

The Commission felt that the park plan submitted seemed overcrowded and suggested a rearrangement of the athletic features, along with other suggestions as to the development of the area into a recreation park (Exhibit G).

19. WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL: Under date of April 24, 1923, the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia submitted the following letter, with plans for a proposed addition to the Western High School, either at the front of the existing building or at the rear:

> "I am sending you the following blueprints pertaining to the Western High School: basement plan, first floor plan, second floor plan, third floor plan, mezzanine plan, longitudinal section, east elevation, south elevation, plat plan. These drawings illustrate studies just made for the new addition authorized for this school. The studies contemplate placing the addition on the front of the existing building.
>
> Protests have been received relative to so placing the new addition, which protests have stated that it would be more economical to place the new construction on the rear, and that it would be preferable to do so from architectural and esthetic standpoints. The protestants hold that the placing of new work as shown by the studies I am sending you would detract much from Western High School, which is, it is stated, at present an embellishment to entire Georgetown. It is claimed that to place the addition on the front would destroy one of the comparatively few beautiful garden spots of Georgetown, and that to do away with the handsome front of the present building would destroy an architectural feature for which no satisfactory substitute could be found. Location for the addition in accordance with the suggestions from protestants would be somewhat as shown in yellow on the plat plan.
>
> The distance shown on the plat plan from the curb on 35th Street to the front of the proposed addition is approximately one hundred feet, a few feet greater than the distance from the curb on East Capitol Street to the front of the new Eastern High School. It seems to the Commissioners that an addition could be constructed in accordance with their studies and at the same time be architecturally and esthetically satisfactory. Your advice would be appreciated on these features."

A number of protests having been received by the Commission against the erection of the addition on the front of the existing building, as at that location it would spoil the building and grounds of the school, the Commission visited the site and considered both locations. The Commission felt that the front of the building and the grounds should not be disturbed and were unanimous in their opinion that the proposed addition should be built at the rear of the present building. As for taking up playground space in the rear of the building, the Commission felt that the existing space is inadequate for a high-school of any considerable size, and that additional playgrounds should be secured in the immediate vicinity (Exhibit H).

20. STANDARD SIZES FOR THE UNITED STATES FLAG: The Commission gave further consideration to the question of adopting a new standard size for the United States Flag, and went to the Arlington National Cemetery to test flags on the new flagpole near the Amphitheater. Representatives of the committee from various departments of the government, appointed to consider the subject, were present, also Captain George M. Chandler of the General Staff, who is especially designated by the Secretary of War to take care of matters pertaining to insignia and the like for the Army. Captain J. M. Ward of the Office of the Quartermaster General, War Department, submitted a regular garrison flag (20' x 38') and a fort flag (10' x 19'), which were tested on the new flagpole. The height of the pole, being about 80 feet, seemed to require a garrison flag, which would at the same time give the flag and pole a beautiful appearance, similar to the large flags in front of St. Mark's, Venice.

Mr. E. L. Hudson, of the Department of Commerce, thereupon submitted

a number of flags received from flag manufacturers ranging in the following proportions:

2.00 to 1--- size 6' x 12'
1.75 to 1--- size 4' x 7'
1.67 to 1--- size 6' x 10'
1.50 to 1--- size 6' x 9'
1.27 to 1--- size 4½' x 5-1/3'

The present proportion is 1.90 to 1, average size 5' x 9½', making, for example, the fort flag 10' x 19' in size.

These flags were laid side by side on the gras and inspected very carefully. Mr. Mowbray, the painter member of the Commission, gave them particular attention. The fly of the present standard flag, 1.90 to 1, (size 5' x 9½') was thought too large, and the flag in the proportion of 1.50 to 1 (size 6' x 9') was thought too square. The flag in the proportion of 1.67 to 1, above indicated, was unanimously agreed upon as the most artistic. The Commission therefore adopted the ratio 1.67 to 1 as the most artistic proportion for the United States Flag, and recommended that a report be submitted to the Department of Commerce, accordingly, and that such further action as may be necessary be taken by their committee with a view to having a new Executive Order issued pertaining to the United States flag (Exhibit I).

21. ARLINGTON AMPHITHEATER, "MUSEUM": The Commission inspected the bronze cases in the Amphitheater, which had been placed there in accordance with the plans submitted by Mr. Hastings, the architect. The cases contained the tributes to the Unknown Soldier. The Quartermaster General submitted the question as to whether tributes to the Unknown Soldier received since Armistice Day, should be placed there in cases. The entire arrangement of the room is to be made the subject of study.

COPY

May 10, 1923.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

There is submitted to you herewith for your approval a design, which has been approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, for the reverse of the First-Aid Medal of the Bureau of Mines.

The Commission has been informed that by your order the words "Department of the Interior" must hereafter appear wherever the words "Bureau of Mines" appear. However, as the model for this medal is about complete, and as the additional words, Department of the Interior, would overcrowd the medal, it is respectfully requested, that in this instance they be omitted and the design approved. The words United States Bureau of Mines are deemed necessary to distinguish the federal bureau from State bureaus.

A model for a similar medal for Mine Rescue work, provided for by Congress in the appropriation act of 1923, has been completed, and the sculptor is proceeding with the work as rapidly as possible with a view to having both the Mine Rescue and the First-Aid medals ready for award at the miners' convention in August, in Salt Lake City.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

APPROVED: May , 1923.

Secretary.

EXHIBIT A.

COPY

May 12, 1923.

Dear Mr. Nebel:

The designs which you submitted for the reverse of the First-Aid medal, illustrating an oxygen inhalator and stretcher, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting May 4, 1923. Design A was approved, with the suggestion that the inhalator and stretcher be made more conventional and also more in perspective. As designed at present it was thought too mechanical and realistic.

As to the question raised by Mr. Parker, of the Bureau of Mines in Pittsburgh, regarding the letters U. S., this caused me to make special inquiry about the matter, and I was informed by Mr. Bailey of the Bureau of Mines here that the Secretary of the Interior had recently issued an order requiring that the words "Department of the Interior" must hereafter appear wherever the words "Bureau of Mines" appear. The Commission considered your design B, which shows the words "Department of the Interior, U. S. Bureau of Mines", but thought it would result in overcrowding the medal with lettering and suggested a waiver of the Order in this instance.

Today Mr. Moore and I called on the Secretary of the Interior in regard to the matter, and explained the situation to him. However, the Secretary would not consent to the waiver, saying the Department of the Interior must be recognized in this work, and that he wanted the words "Department of the Interior" to appear also on the reverse of the Mine Rescue Medal. The Secretary suggested a rearrangement of the lettering (as indicated on the attached sketch); possibly with the letters U. S. on each side of the design, if that met with favor by the artist. Mr. Bailey of the Bureau of Mines was also present.

Mr. Moore said the directions of the Secretary would be carried out, as it is desired that these medals have his approval. It was suggested that the lettering be made smaller, than shown in the designs you submitted, if the artist thought it necessary. Would you therefore please revise the models for the reverse of the Mine Rescue and the First Aid medals, to conform to these recommendations, and send me a photograph of each of them as soon as completed? The Secretary of the Interior desires to see them before you proceed with the casting. He is much interested in the designs.

Mr. Fraser suggests a slight change in the obverse of the Mine Rescue Medal, as indicated on the photograph you submitted, which is herewith returned. The two photographs of the First-Aid designs are also enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Mr. B. Nebel,

4515 Forbes Street,

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Exhibit A-1.

COPY

May 3, 1923.

Dear Mr. Hess:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today considered the designs which you submitted for a new "show greenhouse for the United States Botanic Garden", to be erected on the site selected by you south of B Street South, as indicated on blueprint No.84550, D. C. Surveyor.

The Commission approve the design of the American Greenhouse Manufacturing Co. A few minor changes are suggested. The entrance should be more simple. The design shows an over elaboration of a small entrance. The Commission suggest the use of a lattice of wood or metal, covered with vines. A sketch indicating this change is enclosed.

The Commission advise that this greenhouse be built on the site selected, south of B Street South, facing B Street. They believe that the whole of Square No.577 should be acquired and made available for your purposes, and that the diagonal street on the old canal site be closed. This would give you an adequate and fine setting for greenhouse and surrounding gardens.

The Commission of Fine Arts will be pleased to be of further service to you in the development of the project at any time.

For the Commission:

Sincerely, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. George W. Hess, Director,
United States Botanic Garden,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B.

COPY

May 12, 1923.

Dear Sir:

The construction plans submitted by your Office for the permanent American Cemeteries at Brookwood, England, and at the Somme and Thiaucourt, France, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting May 3, 1923. The Commission make the following recommendations:

BROOKWOOD: As to the cemetery at Brookwood, the Commission suggest that the building be entirely replanned and simplified. It should sit on the ground and not on a built-up mound. Preferably it should combine the entrance with the building, so as to keep open the long vista that begins in the British cemetery. On one side of the archway would be the waiting room, with a pump room on the other. The tanks could be placed under the entire structure.

The stone-work at the eastern entrance should be eliminated and the entrance defined simply by planting. This is a cemetery in a cemetery and should be kept very quiet. The planting also should be simplified. Evergreens should be used in from half a dozen to a dozen varieties of large and small sizes. Omit all fancy colored growth and use largely rhododendrum and laurel for ground cover, because it is characteristic of the English treatment. Omit the flagpole.

The amphitheater or semi-circular ending in the pine grove should be made as large as possible without destroying the facing of the pine woods. A number of trees can be cut out with advantage, if done with feeling by someone on the spot. Eliminate the effect of a fancy borderline under the trees. In some places it should be possible to look through under the trees. There should be grouping of rhododendrum and laurel under the branches, but not a continuous border.

THE SOMME: Instead of the tower-like tank construction, the Commission recommend the underground tank-pressure system.

The flagpole should be of one piece.

The entrance gates are to be similar to the approved design for the American Cemetery at Waereghem, Belgium, omitting the rustication from the posts.

Other suggested changes have been noted on the designs.

THIAUCOURT: The underground tank system is recommended also for this cemetery. There should be simplification of the gateposts, omitting the rustication. The flagpole should be of one piece. Further changes suggested in the architecture have been noted on the designs.

All the plans for the American Cemeteries in Europe as presented

to the Commission have been over-elaborate and needlessly expensive. Many of the architectural features the Commission have eliminated and others have been subordinated. The main object sought by the Commission is to make these permanent American Cemeteries in Europe resemble as closely as possible United States Military Cemeteries of the Civil War period, which have now grown into great simplicity and beauty, because of the three elements, namely the small uniform headstone, the considerable amount of green grass, and the large trees shading the entire plot. It is recognized that certain buildings are necessary in the American Cemeteries in Europe and the Commission have suggested changes in the plans so as to make them in harmony with the nearby rural structures, particularly in France. The inadequate time given for consideration of the plans has made it impossible for the Commission of Fine Arts to secure all the necessary changes and modifications. The Commission have done the best they could under the circumstances, and in these efforts they have had the hearty cooperation of Washington officials of the War Department.

The plans as revised are approved.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Quartermaster General,

War Department,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C.

COPY

May 15, 1923.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of April 23, transmitting a photograph of the full size clay model of the panel which is to be placed on the north side of the center pedestal of the Grant Memorial, was brought to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting May 4,1923.

The model for the north side of the center pedestal is approved, provided the panel be executed in marble. It is disapproved if it is executed in bronze. Both the model for the south side and the model for the north side of the center pedestal of the Grant Memorial are essentially models for marble. They are at variance with the bronze designs executed by Mr. Shrady and if executed in bronze they will be a serious detriment to the Monument, being entirely out of keeping with it.

It has been intimated to the Commission that the whole question at issue turns upon the expense. It will cost about $1,000 more to execute the designs in marble than to execute them in bronze. Mr. Sherry Fry, the sculptor, has informed the sculptor member of this Commission that he is willing to deduct $500 if they are executed in marble, and it is believed that the Shrady estate would be willing to accept a reduction of $500 on their part, thus covering the entire extra cost of executing the designs in marble.

For the sake of the integrity of the Grant Memorial and for the honor and credit of the sculptor, who put his entire life into this Monument, it is hoped that the adjustment above indicated may be made.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill,

Executive and Disbursing Officer,

Grant Memorial Commission.

EXHIBIT D.

COPY

May 3, 1923.

Dear Miss McCammon:

Some time ago the Commission of Fine Arts gave careful consideration to the design and placing of the Soldiers Memorial Cross in Arlington National Cemetery. The site was considered with the officers of the Quartermaster's Department of the Army and with your committee, and a scheme adopted as represented in the official plan of Arlington dated August, 1921 (6608-120).

Mr. Greenleaf and Mr. Caemmerer of the Commission of Fine Arts, with you and Miss Macomb of your committee, and also Mr. Manning, constructor of the cross, made a visit to the site on April 27th, discussing the questions of grading and planting in accordance with the official plan. The subject has subsequently been considered by the Commission of Fine Arts, and we now, at your request, state our recommendations:

The site is between two blocks of graves, as shown on the plan above mentioned. The cross rises from a broad base 12 inches above the sod, at the end of a grass avenue. This avenue is to be bordered on each side by a line of trees, and behind the cross is to be a strong backing of foliage, tall enough and dense enough to serve as the end of the vista. Against this backing the cross stands in relief. We feel that these fundamental elements should be handled simply, and broadly, and with sufficient vigor to give definition and distinction to the scheme.

One deciduous tree stands in the line of vision of the avenue. It should unquestionably be removed. We recommend that a superficial grading be done, wiping out a slight crowning near this tree and distributing the earth in one or two hollows nearby. This will add greatly to the appearance of the grass avenue and the expense would be very slight.

The finished grade of the ground immediately about the monument should be twelve (12) inches above the present ground surface immediately adjoining the stake, which now fixes the site of the monument.

We think it best that the two rows of trees framing the avenue shall be each with its center line six (6) feet distant from the adjoining center line of gravestones and the trees be planted at regular distances in each row twenty (20) feet between centers. All things considered, we recommend the use of the small-leafed European linden,

kept trimmed with a clean trunk about eight feet in the clear.

An important feature is the backing of foliage behind the cross. It should be of evergreen and present a continuous screen to the ground, with a concave outline forming in a general way a cove with the cross at the center. Simply evergreen shrubs would be entirely inadequate. Trees are needed at the background with a lower material planted between them. We recommend that evergreen planting be done strongly to that end; that three dedicuous trees, of which only one has any real value, be removed from the row along the fence line. All the space between the cross and the fence is needed for evergreen trees. The three existing evergreens in the locality can be worked into the scheme. Of these three evergreens now standing near the cross site, one unquestionably should be moved back or cut down and it would be well to shift another as well. From three to five evergreens, preferably white pine, should be planted in the background. We suggest that there is abundant material in the cemetery from which a selection of suitably medium sized trees might be made, without the slightest detriment to the effects elsewhere and these trees could be easily transplanted to create the background for the cross. Against them a low growth of the dwarf hemlock or else of taxus brevifolia might well be used for a facing of the cove, in the center of which the cross stands. This growth, planted between and under the green branches of the evergreens, would give density and richness of texture to the surface of the green wall of the cove. At each side, carrying the wall of the cove out past the cross, should be grouping of several cedars or arbor vitae; their upright lines would aid greatly in giving character to the design.

For the Commission:

Very resepctfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Miss A. B. McCammon, President,
Argonne Unit, American Women's Legion,
1405 21st Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E.

COPY

May 12, 1923.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of April 27, transmitting a plan showing a portion of Judiciary Square with the location proposed for the Darlington Memorial, was brought to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting May 4, 1923, and the plan, which was approved, is returned to you herewith.

Several years ago, while Colonel Ridley was secretary of the Commission of Fine Arts, the Commission was approached by a committee of citizens who desired advice as to sculptor and design for a memorial fountain to Mr. J. J. Darlington, to be located in Judiciary Square, near Mr. Darlington's law office. The Commission were of the opinion that the location suggested was an appropriate one for a fountain and that a fountain in this location would be of interest and advantage in the development of that portion of Judiciary Square. They suggested that the Darlington Committee secure a design from Mr. C. Paul Jennewein, one of the most brilliant of the young sculptors, and among the designs submitted by Mr. Jennewein they approved the one showing a maiden and a fawn. This design the Commission regarded as very beautiful in itself and as appropriate for a fountain.

The Commission repeatedly called the attention of the committee to the method of procedure necessary to obtain the consent of Congress to the location of a memorial in public grounds, and so far as the Commission has knowledge the committee has complied with all the requirements of law. If in your judgment there are questions as to the policing of the fountain, it is suggested that they be taken up with the committee directly.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Colonel C. O. Sherrill,

Officer in Charge of

Public Buildings and Grounds.

EXHIBIT F.

COPY

May 1[illegible], 1923.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting May 4, 1923, gave consideration to the preliminary plan which you submitted with letter of March 9, 1923, for the development of Section "D", Anacostia Park, into a recreation park. Action with reference to the plan was held in abeyance pending the arrival of Mr. Greenleaf, who has just returned from California and who gave the plan particular attention.

It struck the Commission that the plan was rather crowded, being suggestive of too many recreational activities for the area proposed; they realize however that you may feel under compulsion to introduce all of these.

While the Commission considered the design, Mr. Greenleaf suggested a rearrangement of the athletic features as indicated in a very general way on the enclosed plan, which has the endorsement of the Commission and is presented for your consideration. Mr. Greenleaf and the Commission request that you fully realize this suggestion is not based upon a detailed study of the entire problem in all its aspects and should be looked upon as a suggestion.

The Commission further suggest that inasmuch as the greater number of people using the park will come by way of the Anacostia Bridge rather than the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge, if possible the long uninteresting approach to the field house at the back and along the railroad yardfence be changed to an approach along the river bank. For the above reasons, and also to accommodate small children, there should, by all means, be an entrance from a point at or near the end of the Anacostia Bridge leading directly down to the park. This need not necessarily be a vehicle entrance.

Would it not be well to shift the field house to a point adjoining the Western Ball Ground and to group in connection with it there the Children's Playground, the Tennis Courts, swimming pool, etc., keeping the Boy's Ball Fields as proposed, toward the eastern end? These players will have further to walk to and from the field house, but, on the other hand, the great majority of children and others would have far less walking distance.

In respect to general scenic effect the Commission believe that the long diagonal view of the length of the park and river shore and across the river from the field house will be more interesting than the direct, square-on and shortened perspective as seen from the field house placed midway of the park length.

In the rough sketch herewith presented, details of the grouping of activities immediately about the field house are not indicated, the aim is simply to present the general idea for consideration.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill,

Officer in Charge of
Public Buildings and Grounds.

EXHIBIT G.

COPY

May 4, 1923.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today considered the designs which you submitted for an addition to the Western High School, and made an inspection of the site.

The Commission are unanimous in their opinion that the proposed addition should be built in the rear of the present Western High School building, which is one of the few school buildings in the District of Columbia that has a good landscape setting. The present playground in the rear of the school is entirely inadequate, and desirable space for an athletic field should be secured in the immediate vicinity, where land now under cultivation is particularly suited for the intended purpose.

The plans are returned to you herewith.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H.

COPY

May 12, 1923.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting May 4, 1923, gave further consideration to the question submitted by the committee of representatives of various Departments of the Government, as to the most artistic proportions for the United States flag. The Commission understand that there is at present a wide diversity in the proportions of the flags put out by flag manufacturers. These proportions disregard the Executive Order of May 29, 1916. The desirability of establishing standard proportions and standard sizes for the flag is recognized.

The subject was discussed in detail with representatives of the committee, officers of the Army and the Navy, and officials of the Department of Commerce. The Commission also inspected a number of flags received by the Department of Commerce from flag manufacturers, at the Arlington National Cemetery, testing them on the new flagpole near the Amphitheater.

The Commission advise that the proportion of fly to hoist be as 1.67 to 1. The Commission further recommend that the present standard of the union (seven stripes hoist, with the fly three-quarters of the hoist to the flag) be maintained.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. R. M. Hudson,
Division of Simplified Practice,
Department of Commerce,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT L.